



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
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Fourth for Fifth

Astronaut Jerry Linenger talks about his preparation for staying on the Russian Mir Space Station. Story on Page 3.



Helping Hubble

Workers at Kennedy Space Center prepare *Discovery's* payload for STS-82. Photo on Page 4.

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No. 2

O'Neill, Stone split duties in space, mission operations

Effective immediately, John O'Neill will hand over mission operations duties to Randy Stone, giving both Space Operations and MOD the opportunity to focus on their primary 1997 goals.

O'Neill, who has been serving in a dual capacity as director of MOD and Space Operations, will serve solely as the director of Space Operations while Randy Stone takes the reins as acting director in MOD.

"This change will allow Mr. O'Neill to concentrate his efforts on implementation of agency streamlining initiatives in the area of space operations, including completion of the Consolidated



O'Neill

Space Operations Contract," said JSC Director George Abbey. "Randy Stone is named acting director, pending Headquarters approval, and will allow MOD management to focus on the significant operational requirements in support of upcoming space shuttle and space station program milestones."

Stone is a recognized expert in all aspects of space flight operations, and has 30 years experience with JSC. He has held successively responsible managerial positions including chief of the Flight Director Office; assistant director for Space Transportation System Programs and assis-

tant director of MOD.

In addition, James Shannon, who has been serving in a dual capacity as deputy director, Space Operations Office and MOD, will serve solely in the position of deputy director of MOD.

Jack Seyl has been appointed acting deputy director of the Space Operations Office, pending Headquarters approval. Most recently, Seyl served as manager of the Space Operations Engineering Office. He has held a number of managerial positions, including deputy assistant director for program support in MOD.

Other changes also will effect the two

organizations. Earl Thompson becomes the manager of the Engineering and Operations

Office in Space Operations. He has worked at JSC for 31 years and most recently served as assistant to the director of MOD. Stan Newberry, who recently joined the Space Operations Office from NASA Headquarters, is named manager of the Management and Resources Office in Space Operations. Newberry has been with NASA for 10 years, and served most recently as manager of administration and resources for



Stone

the Office of Life and Microgravity Sciences and Applications at NASA Headquarters.



NASA Photo

The STS-81 crew goes over preflight checklists on the flight deck of *Atlantis* during the final phase of the Terminal Countdown Demonstration Test. The crew are in its flight positions with the orbiter in a vertical attitude at Launch Pad 39B, with the camera pointed down from the front cabin area. This angle creates the illusion that astronaut support assistant Pam Melroy, second from right, is floating in space. From the left are Pilot Brent Jett, Mission Specialists Jeff Wisoff and John Grunsfeld and Commander Mike Baker.

Dispatchers move to new facility

Automated system goes on line to better protect JSC

After months of preparation, the JSC Emergency Operations Center Computer Aided Dispatch system is up and running and ready to dispatch personnel to all types of emergency situations.

"Dispatchers moved into the new area last month and have completed extensive training on the new system," said EOC Manager Clay Anderson. "The new CAD system will replace a lot of functions the dispatchers had to do manually. This state-of-the-art system brings the JSC level of emergency response to one of the highest levels in the country."

The new system automatically records where an emergency call is coming from and dispatchers will be able to direct personnel to precise locations.

"Before this system, dispatchers had to write everything down," Anderson said. "Now the computer

records the information and dispatchers can call emergency personnel with greater speed and efficiency than in the past."

The system received an Operational Readiness Inspection from senior managers, and personnel were given the go to move the dispatchers from their first floor location in Bldg. 30 to the third floor EOC.

"The dispatchers are very pleased with the new location," said Ken Ramke, chief of the Security Branch. "Everyone passed their training with flying colors and simulations are helping work out any kinks. They have welcomed the challenge of learning the new system."

Dispatchers received 40 hours of familiarization training and have spent numerous hours in simulation

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First '97 flight continues cooperation

By Karen Schmidt

The first space shuttle flight for 1997 continues the cooperative effort of space and science exploration between the U.S. and Russia.

Atlantis—targeted for liftoff at 3:27 a.m. CST Sunday from Kennedy Space Center—will carry a crew of six for a fifth docking to the Russian Mir Space Station. With an on-time launch, Commander Mike Baker, Pilot Brent Jett and Mission Specialists Jeff Wisoff, John Grunsfeld, Marsha Ivins and Jerry Linenger would reach Mir Tuesday and docking would occur about 9:50 p.m. CST.

After verifying a good seal between the two craft, Baker will open the hatch about two hours later and greet fellow American John Blaha who has been stationed at the Russian outpost for the past four months. The shuttle will remain docked to Mir until Sunday while the crew completes transfers of more than 5,975 of supplies to Mir and Blaha hands over his duties to his replacement. Linenger has been in Russia for the past year and a half and will remain on Mir until May when *Atlantis* returns with his replacement, Mike Foale. Linenger said because of his training on both American and Russian systems he feels 100 percent ready to go.

"I have the one shuttle flight STS-64 under my belt and I am pretty comfortable with shuttle operations,"

said Linenger during a crew news conference. "I think for most Americans these long-duration flights are a new experience. It's been a long time since Skylab."

Atlantis will carry the Spacehab double module. The module will be used to store supplies for Mir and the return trip to Earth.

"On this one, it (the Spacehab module) really is a carrier where we're moving all the furniture that's

inside over to Mir and bringing back experiments that have been completed to bring back to the investigators," Jett said. "Part of our challenge is to do all that in five days."

The transfer of water, science equipment, Russian logistics and miscellaneous materials will take up a majority of the crew's days.

"We have all been trained in how to do the water collection," Ivins said. "We have a good support system here on the ground that really stays up to the moment with all of the items to be transferred and they will give me a list before we fly and we will move all three tons over to the Mir and back."

During docked operations the crew will conduct a variety of science experiments on Mir. Science experiments will focus on microgravity research on humans, plants and the Mir environment. Samples will be collected from Blaha, Mir 22

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Visitor center features new IMAX

Space Center Houston's newest IMAX film, *Speed*, allows viewers to experience the thrill of victory without the agony of defeat and is only one of the new features for 1997.

The latest film to be featured in Space Center Theater, *Speed* is an experience rather than a film. Viewers ride along with bicycle racers in the Olympic velodrome, race through the streets of Fresno, Calif., with Indianapolis racer Billy Vukovich, fly with the U.S. Navy Blue Angels high above the Earth and speed down the drag strip at 320 miles per hour with a jet engine dragster.

"The film is certainly a full-body experience," said Former Astronaut

Ken Reightler who attended a special sneak preview last week. "It gives you a good idea of speed in all of its shapes and forms and a sense of how speed is relative. This film is a perfect fit into the mission of Space Center Houston in that it excites but also teaches."

The film traces the development of speed from the first bicycle to Lockheed-Martin's SR-71 Blackbird that travels in excess of Mach 3. The film also explores the speed of spacecraft registering Apollo 10 as the fastest man has ever flown at 24,250 mph. Combining computer graphics with live action, the film captures the human race's fascination with speed. The film doesn't tell

about the impact of mechanization in humans lives, but lets the viewer experience for themselves the mixture of awe and discomfort that characterizes the alliance. The film captivates an audience because it shows them the effects of from their point of view. *Speed* will be showing until July 3.

SCH also is showing another IMAX film. *To Be An Astronaut* focuses on the personal experiences of astronauts in training from classroom lectures to on-orbit operations.

Ongoing at SCH is "Close Encounters" at 10:30 a.m. every Tuesday. Presentations by JSC scientists and engineers give visitors a

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Space Center Houston's new IMAX movie, *Speed*, features a ride with the U. S. Navy Blue Angels.